

As I say, I am proud to say that when I lived in California, as a citizen, as a matter of constitutional conscience, I voted against every single initiative, even those with which I agreed, because I wanted to preserve the concept of a representative republic that is the foundation of our liberties.

I thank the Senator from West Virginia for this most scholarly presentation. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to be here to hear it.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator for his observations. I am grateful for his presence at this time and grateful for the perceptions that he has expressed to us based on his experiences in living in the great State of California.

I thank him. I think he is a scholar, a real scholar of our form of government and interested in keeping this republic as Benjamin Franklin so wisely admonished the lady. I thank him very much.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the Senator for his kind words.

FEDERAL VACANCIES REFORM ACT OF 1998—PERMISSION TO FILE AMENDMENTS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Members have until 1 p.m. today to file first-degree amendments to the vacancies bill, notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, September 24, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,523,268,372,227.36 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-three billion, two hundred sixty-eight million, three hundred seventy-two thousand, two hundred twenty-seven dollars and thirty-six cents).

One year ago, September 24, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,384,225,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred eighty-four billion, two hundred twenty-five million).

Five years ago, September 24, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,381,848,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred eighty-one billion, eight hundred forty-eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 24, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$459,783,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-nine billion, seven hundred eighty-three million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,063,485,372,227.36 (Five trillion, sixty-three billion, four hundred eighty-five million, three hundred seventy-two thousand, two hundred twenty-seven dollars and thirty-six cents) during the past 25 years.

WE NEED TO RATIFY THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY NOW

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 35th Anniversary of the Senate's ratification of the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963. Unfortunately, we still have not achieved the larger goal of ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. In fact, the Treaty has languished in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for a year with no debate, no action, and no results.

As President KENNEDY said about the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963, "The conclusion of such a treaty * * * would check the spiraling arms race in one of its most dangerous areas. It would place the nuclear powers in a position to deal more effectively with one of the greatest hazards which man faces in 1963, the further spread of nuclear arms." Thirty-five years later, those words are truer than ever.

Nuclear proliferation is one of the most serious national security threats we face. Earlier this year, the nuclear tests in India and Pakistan reminded us that we must do all we can to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as soon as possible.

On Wednesday, at the United Nations, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan announced his intent to sign the test ban treaty within the next year. The Prime Minister linked this decision to the lifting of sanctions imposed in the wake of last May's nuclear tests. Yesterday, India's Prime Minister Vajpayee followed suit and announced to the U.N. General Assembly that his nation would also sign the Treaty within the year.

If both Pakistan and India sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, only North Korea will remain outside the worldwide group of nations in continuing to develop their nuclear program. Prompt U.S. ratification of the Treaty would not only demonstrate our support for Pakistan and India, but also encourage North Korea to join the world and reject nuclear testing.

The recent tests by India and Pakistan are ominous proof that the greatest threat to humanity is still the danger of nuclear war. The CTBT would give the United States access to a vast worldwide network of nuclear monitoring stations. These additional stations would blanket the globe with sensors that can detect radiation, feel the ground shake from a nuclear test, or hear the sounds emanating underwater from a nuclear explosion. This network is possible only through the cooperative efforts of the CTBT, and it will clearly strengthen our national security.

We face a unique opportunity in the Senate, an opportunity to help the world pull back from the nuclear brink and end nuclear testing once and for all. Other nations look to the United States for international leadership. President Clinton has done his part, in signing the Treaty and submitting it to

the Senate for ratification, as the Constitution requires. Now the Senate should do its part, and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Treaty ratification is the single most important step we can take today to reduce the dangers of nuclear war.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2281) to amend title 17, United States Code, to implement the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty and Performances and Phonograms Treaty, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. HYDE, Mr. COBLE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. BERMAN.

From the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of the House bill and Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILEY, Mr. TAUZIN, and Mr. DINGELL.

At 12:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3736. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make changes relating to H-1B nonimmigrants.

The message also announced that the House insists upon its amendment to the bill (S. 2206) to amend the Head Start Act, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and the Community Services Block Grant Act to reauthorize and make improvements to those Acts, to establish demonstration projects that provide an opportunity for persons with limited means to accumulate assets, and for other purposes, disagreed to by the Senate, and agrees to the conference asked by

the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. MARTINEZ.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-7159. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of a payment to Rewards Program Participant 98-21; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7160. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Anticounterfeiting Consumer Protection Act: Disposition of Merchandise Bearing Counterfeit American Trademarks; Civil Penalties" (T.D. 98-75) received on September 22, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7161. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, notice of a cost comparison of Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratories Air Force-wide; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7162. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 1998-99 Late Season" (RIN1018-AE93) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-7163. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of an allotment of funds made under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act to the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-7164. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conservation of Arctic Animals and Plants" (RIN3145-AA34) received on September 22, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-7165. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules entitled "Indiana Regulatory Program" (Docket IN-131-FOR) and "Ohio Regulatory Program" (Docket OH-218-FOR) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7166. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation M, Consumer Leasing" (Docket R-1004) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7167. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation DD, Truth in Savings" (Docket R-1003) received on September 24, 1998; to the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7168. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation E, Electronic Fund Transfers" (Docket R-1007) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7169. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Encryption Items" (RIN0694-AB80) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7170. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Financial Assurance Requirements for Decommissioning Nuclear Power Reactors" (RIN3150-AF41) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7171. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Late-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations" (RIN1018-AE93) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7172. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Late-Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds" (RIN1018-AE93) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7173. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Bay Area Air Quality Management District" (FRL6161-8) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7174. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Land Disposal Restrictions; Treatment Standards for Spent Potliners from Primary Aluminum Reduction (K088)" (FRL6168-7) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7175. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Massachusetts: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL6167-9) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7176. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites" (FRL6169-3) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7177. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Virginia; Final Ap-

proval of Underground Storage Tank Program" (FRL6167-7) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7178. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding pesticide tolerance exemptions (FRL6032-4) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7179. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluroxypr; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL6033-4) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7180. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mepiquat Chloride; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6032-6) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7181. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Modification of the Covered Areas Provision for Reformulated Gasoline" (FRL6169-5) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7182. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebufenozide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6033-3) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7183. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Existing and Addition of New Filing and Service Fees" (Docket 98-09) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7184. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials Regulations; Editorial Corrections and Clarifications" (Docket RSPA-98-4404) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7185. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Lafourche Bayou, LA" (Docket 08-98-062) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7186. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments; Organizational Changes; Miscellaneous Editorial Changes and Conforming Amendments" (Docket 1998-4442) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7187. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; CFM International CFM56-7B and -7B/2 Series Turbofan Engines" (Docket 98-ANE-55-AD) received on September 24, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.